

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 L-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 /070 W
-----063213 181903Z /53

O R 181615Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4514

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

USMISSION GENEVA

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, SHUM, WZ

SUBJECT: SOWETO STUDENT RELATIONS WITH GOS

REF: MBABANE 1308

1. A HEARING SCHEDULED FOR MORNING APRIL 18 FOR THE
SOWETO STUDENT REFUGEES ARRESTED YESTERDAY WAS CANCELLED.
NO REASON WAS GIVEN. HEARING HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR
MONDAY, APRIL 24. STUDENTS ARE BEING HELD AT A PRISON ON
THE OUTSKIRTS OF MBABANE DUE TO CROWDED CONDITIONS AT
OTHER SWAZILAND PRISONS. TODAY, ALL THE REMAINING REFUGEE
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STUDENTS VOLUNTARILY JOINED THE OTHERS IN PRISON. THERE
IS ONE EXCEPTION, A MALE WITH HEART DISEASE.

2. NO DECISION HAS BEEN REACHED ON WHAT TO DO
ABOUT THE STUDENTS. POST VIEWED IT AS SLIGHTLY
POSITIVE SIGN THAT THE STUDENTS WERE TO BE BROUGHT
TO TRIAL RATHER THAN SUMMARILY DETAINED UNDER 1973

PROCLAMATION. HOWEVER, IF FOUND GUILTY, THE STUDENTS COULD THEN BE DEPORTED FOR HAVING VIOLATED THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH GOS ALLOWS THEM TO REMAIN IN SWAZILAND.

3. UNHCR REP SABITI IS PUSHING GOS TO DROP CHARGES AND ALLOW STUDENTS TO RETURN TO SCHOOL. IF GOS DROPS CHARGES, SABITI FEELS HE HAS GOOD CHANCE OF PLACING STUDENTS IN A WEST AFRICAN ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRY SUCH AS GAMBIA OR SIERRA LEONE. HOWEVER, IF STUDENTS ARE DEPORTED, IT WILL BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO PLACE THEM.

4. COMMENT: THE TEACHERS AT THOKOZA HOSTEL, WHERE THE REFUGEE STUDENTS ARE EDUCATED AND SABITI INDICATED TO EMBOFF THAT ALL THE STUDENTS ARE DISGUSTED WITH THEIR TREATMENT BY GOS. STUDENTS DECIDED TO DELIBERATELY FORCE HAND OF GOS BY HOLDING DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF DPM'S OFFICE. END COMMENT.

5. EMBOFF DISCUSSED STUDENTS' SITUATION WITH AR. R. SHABANGU, PERM SEC IN DEPUTY PRI MIN OFFICE WHO HANDLES REFUGEE AFFAIRS. SHABANGU MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE WHOLE INCIDENT IS OUT OF HIS HANDS. POST WILL KEEP DEPT INFORMED OF ULTIMATE FATE OF STUDENTS.

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WACHOB

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 18 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780445/aaaabmfg.tel
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Litigation History:
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